

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
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C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 5846

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CGEN, GE, FR, GW, US

SUBJECT: FRENCH GIVE THEIR CONSULAR CONVENTION COUNTER-DRAFT TO GDR

REF: (A) BERLIN 5104 (B) PARIS 04077 BOTH NOTAL

1. AT BRITISH EMBASSY RECEPTION ON JUNE 12, EMBOFF HAD THREE-CORNERED CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR AUGUST KLOBES, DIRECTOR, CONSULAR DEPARTMENT, GDR FOREIGN MINISTRY (LEADER OF GDR TEAM TO FIRST ROUND CONSULAR TALKS IN US IN FEBRUARY), AND DAMIEN GIORDANI, FRENCH EMBASSY, GDR. GIORDANI ASKED KLOBES IF HE HAD READ THE FRENCH CONSULAR CONVENTION COUNTER-DRAFT, WHICH HAD BEEN GIVEN TO GDR EMBASSY, PARIS "TEN DAYS AGO". KLOBES SAID HE HAD NOT AND ACTED SURPRISED THAT THE FRENCH HAD PRESENTED A COUNTER-DRAFT. GIORDANI TWITTED KLOBES, ASKING IF A POUCH OR TELEGRAM HAD NOT ARRIVED FROM PARIS IN LAST TEN DAYS. KLOBES, SOMEWHAT EMBARRASSED, REITERATED THAT HE HADN'T SEEN DRAFT YET.

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2. EMBOFF ASKED KLOBES IF THERE DID NOT SEEM TO BE A FAIR AMOUNT OF ACTIVITY IN CONSULAR CONVENTION NEGOTIATIONS THESE DAYS, WHAT WITH SOME KIND OF MOVEMENT OR TALKS BETWEEN THE GDR ON THE ONE HAND, AND AUSTRIA, FINLAND, BELGIUM, THE UK, THE US, AND NOW FRANCE ON THE OTHER. KLOBES SAID THAT ONE COULD TALK OF "MOVEMENT" ONLY WHEN ONE MENTIONED THE UK. WHEN QUERIED ON AUSTRIA AND FINLAND (WHERE, AS THE DEPARTMENT KNOWS, THE GDR HAD MADE GAINS ON THE NATIONALITY QUESTION), KLOBES RESPONDED WITH NOTABLE LACK OF ENTHUSIASM AND SAID THAT THOSE WERE ONLY "SMALL THINGS" ("KLEINE SACHEN").

3. AFTER KLOBES MOVED ON TO ANOTHER GROUP, GIORDANI SAID THAT HE WAS SURE THAT KLOBES HAD LOOKED AT THE FRENCH COUNTER-DRAFT CAREFULLY - AND HAD NOT LIKED IT. THE FRENCH WOULD NOT GIVE IN ON NATIONALITY AND HAD MADE DEMANDS OF THEIR OWN CONCERNING CONSULAR ACCESS TO ARRESTED FRENCHMEN AND ATTENDANCE OF CONSULAR OFFICERS AT ALL TRIALS, WHICH THE GDR WOULD NOT WANT TO CONCEDE. GIORDANI SAID THAT KLOBES WAS PERSONALLY INVOLVED IN ALL CONSULAR CONVENTION NEGOTIATIONS AND WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY HAVE BY NOW RECEIVED BOTH THE TEXT BY POUCH AND TELEGRAPHIC WORD THAT THE DRAFT HAD BEEN DELIVERED.

4. GIORDANI TOLD EMBOFF THE KLOBES WAS A DIFFICULT AND UNPLEASANT MAN TO WORK WITH AND THAT HE WOULD STONEWALL ON CONCESSIONS THAT THE GDR HAD PROMISED IF IT SUITED HIS PURPOSE. IN AN EXAMPLE OF THIS, HE SAID THAT A NUMBER OF MONTHS AGO WHEN FRENCH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT EDGAR FAURE HAD MET GDR VOLKSKAMMER PRESIDENT GOETTING, FAURE HAD ASKED FOR COMPASSIONATE TREATMENT FOR ONE FRENCH HUMANITARIAN CASE OF A GDR CITIZEN MARRIED TO A FRENCH CITIZEN. SHORTLY AFTER THAT, KLOBES HAD PHONED GIORDANI AND SAID GRUFFLY THAT THE GDR WOULD MOVE QUICKLY ON THE CASE IN QUESTION. TO DATE, PERHAPS A YEAR LATER, THE PERSON HAD STILL NOT BEEN RELEASED AND KLOBES HAD AVOIDED DISCUSSION OF THE CASE WITH GIORDANI WHENEVER HE COULD.

5. COMMENT: GIORDANI'S COMMENTS ON KLOBES AS A DIFFICULT AND UNPLEASANT MAN TO WORK WITH HAVE BEEN ECHOED BY MEMBERS OF THE BRITISH, DUTCH, SPANISH
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AND IRANIAN EMBASSIES HERE. GROVE

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